RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 14562 030303Z
ACTION SCT-02

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02	CIAE-00
	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03
	TRSE-00	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00	USIE-00
	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	P-02	T-01
	/065 W						

----------077051 030306Z /63

P 030401Z DEC 88
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5397
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CHJUSMAG SEOUL KS
COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS//CJ-CC/BJ-CM-H/SJS/EJ-J//
SA CINCUNC KS
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
JCS WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCUNC SEOUL KS//UNCMAC//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 14562

CINCPAC FOR FPA FINNEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PTER, PGOV, PREL, KS, KN
SUBJECT: KIM HYON HUI QUESTIONED BY PROSECUTOR; BEREAVED FAMILIES DEMONSTRATE

REF: A) STATE 383610, B) SEOUL 14045 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. CONFESSED KAL 858 BOMBER KIM HYON HUI WAS QUESTIONED

AT THE SEOUL DISTRICT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE FOR ABOUT EIGHT HOURS ON DEC. 2. THIS WAS KIM'S FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE HER TELEVISED CONFESSION ON JAN. 15. SHE REMAINS IN THE CUSTODY OF THE NSPA. NEWPAPER ACCOUNTS INDICATED SHE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAMUEL V SMITH
DATE/CASE ID: 13 AUG 2009 200807065

CONFIDENTIAL
UNCLASSIFIED

WILL BE INTERROGATED BY THE PROSECUTOR SEVERAL MORE TIMES BEFORE INDICTMENT.

3. ON THE EVENING OF DEC. 2, A LARGE NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE VICTIMS DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE SUPREME COURT BUILDING NOT FAR FROM THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. THEY DEMANDED THAT KIM BE TRIED AND CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR MAKING INSUFFICIENT EFFORTS TO FIND THE CRASHED AIRCRAFT.

4. PRESS ACCOUNTS NOTED THE EXTREMELY TIGHT SECURITY FOR KIM AT THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, AND QUOTED SOURCES WHO SAID THE ROKG IS CONCERNED FOR HER SAFETY IF SHE IS TRIED IN OPEN COURT.

5. IN HIS NOV. 28 LUNCH WITH FM CHOI, THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE NEED FOR A LEGAL CONCLUSION OF KIM'S CASE THROUGH A TRIAL. CHOI SAID HE WAS UNSURE OF THE PRECISE STATUS OF THE CASE BUT UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO IT.

6. COMMENT: FROM PRESS REPORTS AND OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ROKG OFFICIALS, IT APPEARS THAT KIM WILL BE INDICTED FOR THE BOMBING, PROBABLY BY THE END OF DECEMBER. THE COMBINATION OF PRESSURE FROM VICTIMS' FAMILIES AND OPPOSITION PARTIES, AS WELL AS UNDERSTANDING OF THE DEMANDS OF THE MONTREAL CONVENTION ARE KEY FACTORS IN ROKG THINKING. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE ROKG AT HIGH LEVEL THE USG'S EXPECTATION THAT SHE BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. WE EXPECT THAT SHE WILL BE CONVICTED AND SENTENCED. IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

NOT CLEAR WHAT THE SENTENCE WILL BE (THE LAW PROVIDES FOR CAPITAL PUNISHMENT) BUT WE EXPECT THAT KIM WILL RECEIVE A SUSPENSION OF SENTENCE OR A PARDON, BECAUSE SHE HAS CONFESSED, SHOWN REMORSE AND COOPERATED SO FULLY WITH THE ROKG. LILLEY

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL